

**Unit 1: A Gathering of Voices**  
**Benchmark Test 1****MULTIPLE CHOICE**

**Literary Analysis and Reading Skills** *Read the selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.*

from "Drake's Great Armada"  
by Captain Walter Bigge.

(1) After our going hence, which was the 14th of September, in the year of our Lord 1585, and taking our course towards Spain, we had the wind for a few days somewhat scant, and sometimes calm. (2) And being arrived near that part of Spain which is called the Moors, we happened to espy divers sails, which kept their course close by the shore, the weather being fair and calm. (3) The General caused the Vice-Admiral to go with the pinnaces well manned to see what they were; who upon sight of the said pinnaces approaching near unto them, abandoned for the most part all their ships, being Frenchmen, laden all with salt, and bound homewards into France.

1. What type of literature is this selection?
  - A. myth
  - B. journal
  - C. sermon
  - D. essay
2. Based on context clues in the selection, what is the best definition of *pinnacle*?
  - A. a type of sword
  - B. a type of sail
  - C. a type of compass
  - D. a type of boat
3. Which is the best paraphrase of sentence 1?
  - A. We were sailing from Spain on September 14, 1585, when we experienced a few days of little wind.
  - B. We set sail on September 14, 1585, after taking a course in Spain, and met with a few days of insufficient wind.
  - C. After returning home, we set off for Spain on a day with very light winds and periods of calm.
  - D. After we set sail for Spain on September 14, 1585, we experienced a few days of light winds or no winds at all.
4. Which is the best way to break down sentence 2 to understand its correct meaning?
  - A. WHO and WHAT: Ship's crew arrived at Spanish coastline  
CENTRAL IDEA: Spotted a large group of divers
  - B. WHO and WHAT: Ship's crew arrived at Spanish coastline  
CENTRAL IDEA: Spotted a large group of Moors
  - C. WHO and WHAT: Ship's crew arrived at Spanish coastline  
CENTRAL IDEA: Spotted many different sailing ships
  - D. WHO and WHAT: Ship's crew arrived at Spanish coastline  
CENTRAL IDEA: Felt calm when they finished a difficult course of sailing

5. What is the author's main purpose for writing this selection?
- A. to describe the quality of the winds they encountered during the voyage
  - B. to show bias against French ships and crews
  - C. to record the events that occurred during the voyage
  - D. to provide details that prove that the General is a brave leader

*Read the selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.*

(1) Long, long ago, when our people first came to this land, it was totally flat and covered with dry sand. (2) As hard as the people worked, they were unable to grow trees for shelter or plants for food. (3) The land seemed merciless, and many people grew weak and suffered mortal illnesses. (4) One day, two young women walked out into the hot, dry desert. (5) "Please, Great Spirit," they called to the sky. (6) "Please revive our land with rain, green plants, and rolling hills." (7) The Great Spirit was moved by their prayer. (8) "Please," they cried, "bring a rushing river filled with bountiful fish for us to eat." (9) The omnipotent Great Spirit brought a long rainy season to transform the land. (10) The sand washed away, causing hills to form along a rushing river's banks. (11) Out of the drenched earth, green plants sprouted. (12) In modern times, our fertile and beautiful valley represents the Great Spirit's reaction to the ancient women's pleas for help.

6. Which sentence contains a cultural detail that signals how the people of a culture view religion?
- A. sentence 3
  - B. sentence 4
  - C. sentence 9
  - D. sentence 10
7. Which statement best summarizes the purpose of this origin myth?
- A. It explains how the features of the land came into being.
  - B. It describes the religious rites and traditions of a culture.
  - C. It describes the traditional roles and duties of women in a specific society.
  - D. It explains what causes seasonal weather patterns.
8. Which statement best describes the author's point of view toward his topic?
- A. He fears the power that the Great Spirit has regarding life in the valley.
  - B. He is proud that his people survived their difficulties.
  - C. He is grateful that his people's land is fertile and bountiful.
  - D. He is envious of people who feel that their prayers have been answered.
9. Which sentence contains an example of direct address?
- A. sentence 6
  - B. sentence 7
  - C. sentence 11
  - D. sentence 12

*Read the selection. Then answer the questions.*

(1) On the first day that we ventured into the wilderness, our native guides took us to a deep canyon surrounded by steep cliffs of coppery, red rock. (2) On horseback, we began a long and perilous trek down to the canyon's floor. (3) The narrow paths were hardly visible, and we were often frightened by the heights. (4) Surely each of us could have easily fallen to his death. (5) However, the strange and new plants and animals we encountered along the way were fascinating, particularly to Ramirez. (6) Often, he asked us to pause while he sketched a specimen or attempted to gain pertinent information from our guides.

10. What is the main purpose of this exploration narrative?
  - A. to provide a firsthand account of what the author experienced
  - B. to warn people regarding the dangers of exploring a canyon
  - C. to describe the interesting plants and animals he saw during his experience
  - D. to persuade people to be prepared for pitfalls and conflicts in the wilderness
11. Which word is used to signal the fact that the author found the journey interesting as well as scary?
  - A. however
  - B. perilous
  - C. surely
  - D. heights
12. Which of the following would be the most likely topic of a poem written by a Puritan?
  - A. a young person's dreams for the future
  - B. a day's gardening
  - C. a politician's eloquent speech
  - D. a bitter disagreement between neighbors
13. What does a sermon usually contain?
  - A. a narrative
  - B. a poem
  - C. a message
  - D. a complaint
14. If you were doing an Internet search to find the writings of American slaves, which of the following is the best phrase to use in your search?
  - A. international slavery
  - B. American slave narratives
  - C. American abolitionists
  - D. nineteenth-century narratives
15. Which of the following titles would most likely be an autobiographical narrative?
  - A. The Unmasking of Bert Splar
  - B. Ben Franklin: Statesman and Scholar
  - C. My Life and Times
  - D. The Perils of Sugar

*Read the selections. Then, answer the question that follows.*

(1) John, Sara, and I were walking in the park when Sara found a wallet on the ground. It was full of money! I said that we should turn it in at the information booth, but Sara said that we should keep it.

(2) Sarah, Jen, and I were walking in the park when Sara found a wallet on the ground. It was full of money! Sara and Jen immediately had this huge fight, and Sara was really a jerk. She wanted to keep the money! So be careful if you ever have dealings with Sara.

16. Which statement is true about both selections?

- A. They are critical of Jen.
- B. They contain persuasive language.
- C. They are firsthand narrative accounts.
- D. They are secondhand narrative accounts.

17. Read this short selection. Then answer the question.

Ah, delicate flower! How have you managed to survive these dry, dry days?

What literary device does this selection contain?

- A. hyperbole
- B. apostrophe
- C. simile
- D. onomatopoeia

*Read this short selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.*

Grinner toothpaste contains helpful herbal compounds designed to help you say goodbye to tooth decay, breath odor, and unsightly yellow teeth. Using it three or four times a day is recommended for a healthy, friend-winning smile. Although our competitors may promise the same results that we do, don't be fooled. Their promises are only that: empty promises. Only with Grinner will YOU be a WINNER!

18. What is the main purpose of this selection?

- A. to persuade readers to take better care of their teeth
- B. to persuade readers to buy Grinner toothpaste
- C. to persuade readers that herbal compounds are safe and practical
- D. to help readers gain new friends in a safe and practical way

19. Which word signals a contrast between Grinner and its competitors?

- A. promise
- B. fooled
- C. although
- D. empty

**Vocabulary**

20. Which word contains a prefix that means “all”?
- A. transform
  - B. omnipotent
  - C. mortal
  - D. revive
21. Which word contains a root that means “death”?
- A. merciless
  - B. mortal
  - C. fertile
  - D. drenched
22. Which word contains a base word that means “danger”?
- A. wilderness
  - B. perilous
  - C. visible
  - D. pertinent
23. Which word contains a suffix that means “the act of doing something”?
- A. merciless
  - B. bountiful
  - C. modern
  - D. reaction
24. The noun *conflict* contains the prefix *con-* (meaning “together”) and the root *flict*. Based on those word parts, which of the following is the best definition of *conflict*?
- A. a strike, or battle, between opposing sides
  - B. a strike, or blow, that someone gives to an opponent
  - C. a problem that is difficult to solve alone
  - D. an agreed-upon fluctuation, or change, in a group’s attitudes

**Grammar** Answer the following questions.

25. Which of the following is an example of a verb in the past perfect tense?
- A. advocated
  - B. complained
  - C. had broken
  - D. was continuing
26. Which of the following is an example of a verb in the perfect tense?
- A. had broken
  - B. had founded
  - C. complained
  - D. was continuing

27. Which of the following contains a linking verb?
- A. Our people first came to this land.
  - B. They called to the sky.
  - C. The land seemed merciless.
  - D. Bring a rushing river.
28. Which contains an example of a plural possessive noun?
- A. their prayer
  - B. the women's cries for help
  - C. the Great Spirit's reaction
  - D. a rushing river's banks

## ESSAY

29. Review the excerpt from the explorer's journal entitled "Drake's Great Armada," by Captain Walter Bigge. Then retell the story in your own words, using modern language. Be sure to use accurate words to preserve the meaning of the original.
30. Think about a childhood experience in which you learned an important lesson. Write an autobiographical narrative in which you reflect on your experience. Begin by stating the lesson that you learned. Then include details from your experience that led you to learn the lesson. End by summarizing, in one sentence, why the lesson was an important one to learn.
31. Write a short commercial for a fictional product. Use a variety of persuasive techniques, such as loaded language, repetition, and appeal to reason. Then, write a short explanation of each of these techniques illustrated by an example from your commercial.